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I can give you no account of any thing to the Southward of 37. degrees; those few Ships, that have adventured to 38, reporting the Winds and Seas so raging, that none dare goe further.

*Some considerations touching the variety of Slate, together with a computation of the Charges in generall, for Covering Houses therewith; by Mr. Sam. Colepress.*

**W**Hereas among the Materials for Building, that for *Covering* is not the least to be considered, among the kinds thereof our Contry-slate is not to be despised, and that as well for its *Statelinefs*, as *Permanency*; to which may be added its *Cheapness*. The *first* whereof needs no better Evidence, than the Esteem, the slated Houses in or about *London* ( though there are many of them ) generally meet with from all, that but take notice of them. For the *Second*, we have some sorts, which by the conjectures of the most experienced *Helliers* ( or Coverors with Slat ) have continued on houses severall hundreds of years, and are yet as firm, as when first put up. And for the *third*, the computation of Charges, annexed below, may give some hints, as easily to guess at the whole Charge thereby, as compared with Tiling, Leading, Boarding &c. ( comparatis comparandis. )

I shall therefore the less scruple to offer some occasional Trials ( though common ones, for ought I know, ) whereby the firm and lasting goodness of any Slate may easily be experimented and without expence.

1. Take the thin cleft stone, flat or shindle, and so knock it against any hard matter, as to make it yield a sound, If the sound be good and clear, that sort of stone is not crazy, but firm and good. Or

2. If in hewing it does not break before the edge of the *seats* ( the hewing instrument of the Slaters ) you may not much doubt of the firmness of the Slat. But

3. If after it hath been exactly weighed ( and the account thereof laid by ) it be put, and for 2. 4. or 8. hours left to remaine all under water in a vessel; and afterwards taken up

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and

and wiped very clean with cloaths, if then it weigh more than before, 'tis of that kind, which imbibes water, and therefore not so fit to endure any considerable time without rotting the laths and timber.

4. These Stones may be pretty well guessed at, whether they be of a close or loose texture, by their *Colour*: For the *overblackish Blew* is aptest to take in water; but the *lighter blew* is alwayes the firmest and closest. To which may be added the *Touch*; for, a good stone feels somewhat hard and rough; whereas an open stone feels very smooth, and as were, oily.

5. Place your Stone longways perpendicular in the midst of a Vessel of water (no matter, how shallow the water be, so it exceed halfe a foot depth,) and be sure, the upper un-immersed part of the Stone be not accidentally wetted by the hand, or otherwise; and so let it remaine a day, or halfe a day, or less. If it be a good firme stone, it will not draw (as they speak) water above half an inch above the level of the water, and that perhaps but at the edges only, the parts of which might be somewhat loosen'd in the hewing. But a bad stone will draw water up to the very top, be the stone as long as it will, all over.

As for the Charges of Covering Houses with Slate, they may be thus computed.

	sh.	—	d.
1000. of <i>Efford small blew</i> at the ships side in Pli-	5	—	6.
mouth harbor			
1000. of <i>Efford large blew</i>	9	—	9.
1000. of <i>Can pelm:l</i>	7	—	0.
1000. of <i>small blew</i> of other Quarries	4	—	0.
1000. of <i>large blew</i>	8	—	0.
3000. of small blew, accompted 2. Tuns in?	}	—	—
carriage by water			
1000. of large blew, 1. Tun		—	—
3000. of small will cover 1. Poole of work at?	}	—	—
the fifth pin plaine.			
Every Poole of work is either 6. foot broad and 14?	}	—	—
foot up, on both sides, or 168 foot in length,			
and one in breadth.			
3000 of large will cover 2. Pooles of plain?	}	—	—
work			

Hewing of all sorts of plain pelmell *per* 1000 —  $\begin{smallmatrix} \text{sh.} \\ 1 \end{smallmatrix}$  —  $\begin{smallmatrix} \text{d.} \\ 6. \end{smallmatrix}$   
 Pinning *per* 1000 8d: Pins *p* 1000: 8d —  $\begin{smallmatrix} \text{sh.} \\ 1 \end{smallmatrix}$  —  $\begin{smallmatrix} \text{d.} \\ 4. \end{smallmatrix}$   
 Three bushels ( *Winchester* measure ) of good Lime will take  
 6. bushels of fresh water sand, and serves to lay on one Poole of  
 work; though much less may serve the turn,  
 300 of lathes to every Poole of work,  
 1000 of Lath nailes to every 300 of Lathes.

An able workman may  $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{lath 1. poole of work} \\ \text{lay on 2000 or more of slate} \\ \text{hew 1500 plaine} \\ \text{pin 4000} \end{array} \right\} \text{by the day.}$

Chequer-work consists in Angles, Circles and semi-circles  
 which requires no common skill, and time in hewing and  
 laying.

It is worthy observation, that if a side-wall happen to take  
 wet by the beating of the weather, or the like, when no-  
 thing else will cure it, our kerseing with Slate ( which is much  
 used in the curious fronts of houses, especially in Townes ) will  
 quickly remedy it.

#### *Some Observations*

*Concerning the odd Turn of some Shell-snails, and the darting  
 of Spiders, made by an Ingenious Cantabrigian and by way  
 of Letter communicated to Mr. I. Wray, who transmit-  
 ted them to the Publisher for the R. S.*

Sir, I Can deny you nothing, and you may doe what you  
 please with the Notes I send you. You would know  
 of me ( you say ) what I have observed concerning the *Odd Turn*  
 of some *Shell-snails* with us in England, and the *Darting of Spi-  
 ders*.

I will tell you then of the *first*, that I have found two sorts  
 of them, easily to be distinguisht one from the other, and  
 from all besides, because the *Turn* of the wreaths is from the  
 right hand to the left, contrary to what may be seen in com-  
 mon Snails. They are very small, and might therefore well  
 escape thus long the more Curious Naturalists; neither of them  
 much exceeding, at least in thickness, a large Oat-corne.